

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 remain active in this application. Amendment of claims 1, 2 and 5 has been requested to include recitations of other claims such as claim 13 as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

A Request for Reconsideration in response to the final office action of December 29, 2005, was filed within two months of that mailing date on February 21, 2006, and is hereby fully incorporated in this Supplemental Amendment. On March 30, 2006, the undersigned was contacted by Examiner Kassa in regard to a requested Examiner's Amendment to place the application in condition for allowance. Although this request for authorization for the Examiner's Amendment was immediately communicated to the client, a response was, unfortunately, not received until after it was necessary for the Examiner to take action on the application. An Advisory Action was mailed April 10, 2006, well after the three-month shortened Statutory Period for response had expired. Therefore further extensions of time should be computed from April 10, 2006.

For the requested Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner requested that the last two lines of claim 13, for example, be included in claims 1, 2 and 5. This amendment has been requested, above and is a verbatim repetition of those lines of claim 13 in claims 1 and 2 and slightly revised (with "cover" omitted and "plate" replaced by "conductive device" to correspond to antecedent language) in claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above-requested amendments carry out the substance of the Examiner's Amendment proposed by the Examiner and should *prima facie* place the application in condition for immediate allowance.

For completeness of the record, during the above-noted discussion with the Examiner, it was again reiterated (as noted in previous responses) that the requested Examiner's Amendment was not necessary in these claims since, as claimed, the plate is arranged adjacent the cover such that a natural motion of the user's finger to open the cover results in a contact with the plate as well as the cover which is of increased firmness and thus of decreased resistance and of increased reliability of achieving static electricity discharge, particularly when it is considered that this arrangement in accordance with the invention allows discharge to occur before the cover is manipulated or possibly even touched and avoids possible resistance or electrical noise in the hinge or slide for the cover and even a requirement that the cover be conductive. This arrangement supporting these meritorious functions is particularly evident in Figures 3 and 4 wherein the cover is arranged to be opened by a lever-like action of the finger using the plate as a fulcrum causing increased firmness of finger contact with the plate. No such arrangement is taught or remotely suggested in the prior art applied and, moreover, the prior art applied does not lead to an expectation of improved reliability of discharge of static electricity by use of the arrangement claimed. Thus, the prior art of record provides no evidence that such a modification would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art determinable therefrom. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have no objection to the above-requested amendments.

By the same token, it is respectfully submitted that entry of the above-requested amendments is well-justified as placing the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance or, in the alternative, better form for Appeal by materially reducing and simplifying

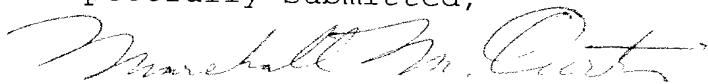
issues. Moreover, no new issues can be raised since the amendatory language is drawn from the original language of another claim. Therefore, entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

A sincere effort has been made to resolve all issues and place the application in condition for allowance based on the requested Examiner's Amendment. Should any issues be seen to remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone at the number given below in order to expeditiously resolve the same.

Since all rejections, objections and requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been fully answered and shown to be in error and/or inapplicable to the present claims, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

A petition for a one-month extension of time has been made above. If any further extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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